United Nations A/52/268/Add.1

General Assembly

Distr.: General
20 October 1997

Original: English

Fifty-second session
Agenda item 71
General and complete disarmament

An international agreement to ban anti-personnel landmines

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

Information received from Governments

Australia

[Original: English]
[10 October 1997]

1. In an announcement on 15 April 1996, Australia declared its support for a global ban on the production, stockpiling, use and transfer of anti-personnel landmines and a unilateral suspension on the operational use of anti-personnel landmines by the Australian Defence Force. Australia does not produce and will not export anti-personnel landmines. Under the terms of the suspension, Australian Defence Force stocks of anti-personnel landmines will be used for training and research purposes only. The suspension would be reviewed only in the case of a substantial deterioration in Australia's strategic circumstances, in which Australia's security was under threat and the denial of an anti-personnel landmine capability to the Australian Defence Force would result in additional casualties and damage to vital infrastructure.

2. Australia has been active in pursuit of the goal of an effective global ban on anti-personnel landmines in various international forums, including through the Ottawa process and in the Conference on Disarmament. On 22 August, Australia deposited its instrument of consent to be bound by amended Protocol II of the Convention on Prohibitions and Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects. Australia has increased its contributions to international demining and mine victim assistance programmes.

97-28126 (E) 221097 231097